



7th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea,

Our Venerable Father Theodore the Sanctified, Disciple of Saint Pachomius (364) – Theodore

lived in the 4th century. He was a disciple of Pachomius and shared his ascetic life.

**** Sunday, May 16th, 2021****

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The Most Holy Trinity Parish Public Liturgical Services Postponed Until further notice

Please join in live-streamed coverage of liturgical services:

Holy Eucharist Cathedral (New Westminster) – Divine

Liturgy at 8:30 a.m. (Eng.) & 10:30 a.m. (Ukr.)

<https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp1JaDotlj_4h3aAJq0Srg

St. Nicholas Parish, (Victoria) - Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

via [Facebook](#) or [Website](#)

St. George's Parish (Prince George) - Divine Liturgy: 8:30

a.m. – (in Ukrainian) & 10:00 a.m. (in English) - Facebook page or at parish webpage (www.sgparish.ca)



First Antiphon

Clap your hands, all you nations; * shout to God with the voice of joy.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

For the Lord most high is awesome, * a great king of all the earth.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

He has subdued peoples to us, * and nations under our feet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

God ascended amid shouts of joy; * the Lord at the sound of the trumpet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

+Glory... Now... Only-Begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

We sing the usual Third Antiphon, but with the festal refrain:

*Son of God, who ascended in glory, * save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparion, Tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb * and the guards became like dead men; * Mary stood before Your tomb * seeking Your most pure body. * You captured Hades without being overcome by it. * You met the Virgin and granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, * glory be to You!

Troparion, Tone 4: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, * giving joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit, * and assuring them through your blessing * that You are the Son of God, * the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion, Tone 8: Christ our God, You are glorified above all, * You established our Fathers as beacons on earth * and through them guided all of us to the true faith. * Glory to You, most compassionate Lord.

+Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 8: The apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrine * confirmed the Church's one faith, * and wearing the garment of truth * woven from theology that descends from on high, * she rightly imparts * the mystery of godliness * and sings its glory.

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: When you had fulfilled Your plan for us * and united things on earth with those in heaven, * You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, * in no way distant, but remaining inseparable, * You cried to those who love You: * I am with You and there is none against you.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us.

Epistle: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*)



In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them: "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that He obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of His grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support

myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed.

Alleluia, Tone 1: The God of gods, the Lord, spoke and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

verse: Gather to Him His devout ones, who with sacrifice make covenant with Him.

Gospel: John 17:1-13

At that time Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on earth by finishing the work that You gave Me to do. So now, Father, glorify Me in your own presence with the glory that I had in Your presence before the world existed. “I have made Your name known to those whom You gave me from the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me is from you; for the words that You gave to Me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom You gave me, because they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.” And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them in Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one, as We are one. While I was with them, I protected them in Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But

now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy made complete in themselves.

Hymn to the Mother of God: O my soul, magnify the Lord who in glory ascended bodily into the heavens.

Irmos Tone 5: O Mother of God, * you transcended both mind and word, * and in time, ineffably bore the Timeless One:* it is you who, with one accord,* we, the faithful, magnify.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens; * praise Him in the highest. *** Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; * praise befits the righteous. Alleluia (x3).

Instead of “We have seen the true light...” & “Let our mouths be filled...” we sing: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, above all the earth be Your glory.



CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

This Sunday is the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council of Nicea. Obviously, the “fathers” of the council refers to the 318 Bishops that traveled from all over the world to join together to give voice to the Orthodox Catholic Faith as it was established and received from the Apostles. Primarily, the fathers of the council focused their attention on the Arian heresy and proclaimed with one voice that Jesus is truly God and truly man, an Eternal Divine Person with two distinct natures. One of the bishops that joined the council was the great Saint Athanasios, bishop of Alexandria.

It was Saint Athanasios who, in his debates with the arch-heretic Arius, uttered the famous statement “God became man that man might become god.” This truth, so central to our Christian faith, restates the foundational Christian belief that the purpose of the Incarnation, the reason why God became a man in the womb of Holy Theotokos, was so that he might reclaim his creation from the dominion of the devil and reunite us with Him. Through our

baptism, we are joined to Christ in a real way so that we are able to say with Saint Paul, “it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me.”

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of the Incarnation according to St Athanasios?
2. How does Saint Athanasios’ statement impact how I see my life as a Christian?
3. How does the truth of our real transformation through baptism impact those around us?

THE FATHERS ON THE GOSPEL

The Lord says “all mine are yours,” as if He were submitting His lordship over creation to the Father, but he also adds “Yours are mine,” to show that the creating command came from the Father to Him. The Son did not need help to accomplish His work, nor are we to believe that He received a separate commandment for each portion of His work. Such extreme inferiority would be entirely inadequate to His divine glory. Rather, the Word was full of His Father’s grace. He shines forth from the Father and accomplishes everything according to His parent’s plan. He is not different in essence, nor is He different in power from his Father, and if their power is equal, then their works are the same. Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. All things were made through Him, and all things were created through Him and for Him, not as if He were discharging the service of a slave, but instead He creatively fulfills the will of His Father. (St. Basil the Great , “On the Holy Spirit 8.19”)

**** To Ponder – The Fathers & Mothers Speak *****

“The ultimate healing is the healing of the resurrection.... Prayer changes others, changes our circumstances because it changes us.” Desert Fathers

“Life is the greatest gift that God has bestowed on human beings. Since human life is created in the image of God, it belongs to Him. We have no right to destroy it.” St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Commentary on the Sunday Gospel Reading:

<https://godwithusonline.org/reflections/the-sunday-of-the-fathers-of-the-first-council-of-nicea-ukrainian/>

**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****



Dear Parishioners, please be assured of my prayers and good wishes in this ever present time of battle with the coronavirus.

Public church services continue to be postponed. Please participate in online or televised services and remain united with each other in thought, prayer, phone calls, etc.



Please Pray for health of ... All those affected by the coronavirus, and: Jayne & Ernie P., Don N., Ambrose S., Robert M., Dave & Betty C., Matt D., Alexandra & Oleh K., Miroslaw G., John N., Fr. John N., T.W., Bill P., Thomas H., Bohdan R., Lawrence & Ping B., Peter O., Gladys O., Alex S., Jessica N., Olga P., Sharon B., Zonia R., Brian K., Mary W., Ray O., Mary E., Sharon & Al L., Joe S., Jeanne R., Emily H., Lisa M., Michael L., Greg H., Melynda S., Ann D., Joyce K., Suzanne C., Clay B., Maria W., Anne D., all sick brothers and sisters in our families and parish community. Please let Fr. Andrzej know if you would like to add names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.



Thank you to all our Supporters – Дякуємо – Our gratitude to everyone for your prayers & ongoing financial support of our parish and for all other ways in which you assist our church community. God bless you all!

Dorota



Sincerest Condolences! Vichnaya Pamiat! – on behalf of our parish community we offer our prayers & sincerest condolences to Mrs. Louise McGarvey & the Daneliuk family who mourn the death of Sam Daneliuk who passed away on Monday, May 10th. May Sam's soul rest in peace.

St. Vincent de Paul Society AGM – tomorrow, **Monday, May 17th** the Society will hold their Annual General Meeting via zoom at 11:00 a.m.

Alpha online – our next catechetical session will take place this coming **Wednesday, 19th** at 10:30 a.m.

Father Le Jeune 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly – will hold their monthly zoom meeting this coming **Thursday, May 20th, 2021** at 7:00 p.m.



Upcoming Major Feast Day – Next Sunday, May 23 we will be celebrating the feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit – **Pentacost Sunday**.

2021 Cemetery Grave blessings – will take place this coming **Saturday, May 22 at 11:00 a.m.** Please contact Fr. Andrzej for more information about this service.

The Fast of the Holy Apostles – begins on the Monday after All Saints Sunday (Monday, May 31st) and lasts until June 29, the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul.



Sunday, May 16 * Divine Liturgy (Eng./Ukr.):** God's blessings to all parishioners

Monday, May 17 * Div. Lit:** God's blessings & good health to All members of SSVP Kamloops Conference & those in Dominica

Tuesday, May 18 * Div. Lit:** +Sam Daneliuk

Wednesday, May 19 * Div. Lit:** Special Intention

Thursday, May 20 * Moleben to the Mother of God
*** 3:30 p.m. - outdoor service**

Saturday, May 22 * Div. Lit.: +Beloved Deceased Ones
*** 11:00 a.m. Annual Grave blessings service *****

Sunday, May 23 * Divine Liturgy (Eng./Ukr.): God's
blessings to all parishioners**



Prayer for the Afflicted People of Ukraine in Time of War

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, we entreat You to hear the earnest prayer of Your beloved Church of Kievan Rus' for her deeply afflicted children abiding in the land of Ukraine. Behold their grave sorrow and grievous plight, and speedily come to their aid. Deliver Your vulnerable people from unjust aggressors, foreign invasion and the terror of war. Strengthen courageous defenders of the nation to fight virtuously, inspired more by love of those they protect than hatred of the enemy.

O compassionate Lord, shelter the displaced, heal the wounded, console the orphan, protect the widow, comfort those who mourn, and mercifully receive into Your Kingdom those who have nobly died guarding their homeland against every aggression. Quickly make cease the spilling of blood of friend and foe alike, yet stir many to bravely struggle for that true justice which alone can bring lasting peace.

O kind-hearted Lord, as You are our peace, soften the hearts of the unmerciful and convert those who promote hostilities toward reconciliation, so that Your beloved children of the land of Ukraine may abide in that tranquility, justice and freedom which reflects your Kingdom, where You reign with Your eternal Father, and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and forever and ever. Amen.



Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak

Lord, Our God,
We thank you for the life that is your gift,
For the providence that sustains us,
And for your wisdom that directs the course of
our days. The threat of an infection of
coronavirus is upon us today. This disease
causes fear among us and has claimed lives.



We humbly beg you, loving Lord, dispel our fear and deliver
us from this and other diseases.

Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.

Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify
You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Amen.



Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts!

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my
soul.

Since I cannot receive You now, I place before You my whole
life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You:

Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure
conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries:

for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion
of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven,
for confidence before You, and not for judgment or
condemnation.

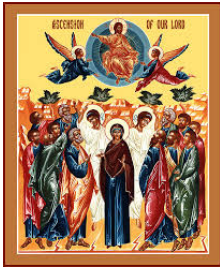
I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself
completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit
me to be separated from You. Amen.



The Ascension of Our Lord

The feast of the Lord's Ascension always falls on a Thursday, on

the fortieth day after Christ's resurrection. This is one of the principal feast days of our Lord and therefore, has a post-feast of nine days. It celebrates the memory of Christ's Ascension into heaven and underscores its significance for Christ and for us.



St. John Chrysostom, in his homily on the Ascension says: "Today the human race is completely reconciled with God. The ancient battle and enmity have disappeared. We, who were unworthy to live even on earth — are now lifted up to heaven. Today we become heirs to the kingdom of heaven, we, who do not even deserve earth, we ascend to heaven and inherit the throne of the King and Lord. Human nature, against which the cherubim guarded paradise, is now raised up above all the cherubim."

Sources of the first three centuries do not speak of this feast. Not even the writer Origen (+251) mentions it, although he lists the Christian feasts in the eighth book of his work "Against Celsus". Liturgical experts are of the opinion that in the first three centuries the celebration of this feast was combined with that of the feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Silvia Egeria does not call this feast the "Ascension", but only "the fortieth day after the resurrection of Christ. "

In the fourth century the feast of the Lord's Ascension became a universal feast, celebrated everywhere. The Historian Socrates (+440) calls it a "general feast". (History of the Church, 7,26)

The feast of the Ascension was highly extolled in the sermons of St. John Chrysostom, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Epiphany of Cyprus, Leo the Great and others. In the fourth century, Queen Helena erected a church at the place of Christ's Ascension in honor of this feast.

The spirit of the services of this feast, as a whole, is uplifting and joyful. The Church rejoices at the glory of Christ (God and Man), who is now seated at the right hand of the Father. He ascended into heaven, in order to send us the Comforter — the Holy Spirit

— and to "prepare a place for us," (John 14,2) as he promised.

"The Lord ascended into heaven," we sing in the first stichera of the Great Vespers service of the feast of the Ascension, "in order to send the Comforter to the world. Therefore, heaven prepared a throne for him and the clouds assisted him in his ascent. The angels wonder as they see a man more exalted than they. The Father receives into his bosom him, who is eternally with him. The Holy Spirit commands all his angels: "Lift up your gates' lintels, O princes; all you nations clap your hands; for Christ has ascended whither He was before. "



Mission Days Schedule

Dear parishioners, once again, we are called upon to discover and understand anew that our parish communities and families (domestic churches) are missionary in nature. Such understanding flows from the gift of our Baptism, by virtue of which, and through the power of its mystery, we have committed ourselves to believe, live, serve, and share the experience of our faith in Christ; and not simply with our family members, but with everyone we meet in life.

From the feast of the Ascension to Pentecost, we are invited to observe Mission Days in your own home, setting aside at least five minutes of family time in order to read the Guidebook together, and then to discuss among yourselves the Missionary Tasks provided for each day.

Prayer: Lord our God, spread the light of Your Holy Gospel, that it may shine through us who are baptized, as children of the Light. Grant that the Christian faith may spread in our society, that we may bear witness to Your living presence in our lives and in our parish community; O Lord, hear us and have mercy. O Holy Spirit, bestowing all: You send prophets, perfect priests, teach the uneducated wisdom, transform fishermen into theologians, and unite the entire church community.

Consubstantial and co-reigning with the Father and the Son, O Comforter, glory be to You!

Introduction - Thursday, May 13: Feast of the Ascension

1st Day - Friday, May 14: A Divine Love that Brings Joy

2nd Day - Saturday, May 15: Liberation from Sin

3rd Day - Sunday, May 16: God is With Us - We Belong to God

4th Day - Monday, May 17: Branches that Bear Fruit

5th Day - Tuesday, May 18: Where to Look for Truth?

6th Day - Wednesday, May 19: Personal Responsibility

7th Day - Thursday, May 20: Community of Prayer

8th Day - Friday, May 21: Serving Those in Need

9th Day - Saturday, May 22: "Tend my sheep!"

10th Day - Sunday, May 23: Our Mission: to Carry the Holy Spirit to Others...

Catechetical Resources on line in English & Ukrainian

1. Royal Doors with daily readings and reflections, UGCC Catechism online, articles, etc

<https://www.royaldoors.net/>

2. Formed: Christian movies, TV shows, prayers, etc.

<https://watch.formed.org/browse>

3. Dynamic Catholic. Beautiful resource for the whole family with Catechism for children, marriage enrichment programs, etc.

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/>



1. Живе ТВ. <https://zhyve.tv/>

2. Дивен Світ. <https://dyvensvit.org/>

3. Катехизм УГКЦ. <http://catechismugcc.org/>